

Response
Application No. 10/502,319
Attorney Docket No. 042251

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 4 have been amended and claim 16 has been added. It is submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated May 1, 2007.

Specification

On page 2 of the Action, the abstract is objected to as including informalities.

This objection is traversed. It is respectfully submitted that such informalities have been corrected by the present Amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefiniteness.

This rejection is traversed. It is respectfully submitted that such indefiniteness have been corrected by the present Amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Olsson et al. (USP 6,732,927).

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This rejection is traversed. Claim 1, as amended, now recites “*a plurality of information dots (3) having various information recognized are disposed by setting said key dot (2) as a representative point, wherein the information dot (3) is disposed at an end point of a vector, wherein a start point of the vector is set at a center surrounded by the lattice dots (4) of four points and wherein the plurality of information dots (3) are arranged in accordance with a predetermined rule by a dot code generation algorithm to thereby generate a dot pattern (1).*”

This Amendment is supported by the specification (page 14, lines 21-26).

It is submitted that the disclosure of Olsson et al. is completely silent regarding the above claimed feature.

First, the Examiner’s claim interpretation of claim 1 is solely directed to an information input and output method by use of a dot pattern characterized in that, on a medium surface of a printed material a plurality of lattice dots are disposed in a rectangular shape and set as a block, and a dot within the pattern is shifted in a manner so as to make the shifted dot a key dot (see page 3, 3rd paragraph of the Action) and those claim interpretation does not include the above claimed feature.

Due to the Examiner's claim interpretation, the primary reference of Olsson et al. merely discloses a coding pattern in which the value of a mark 18 is defined by its displacement in relation to a raster point 22 (see column 6, lines 20-22 and Fig. 3b).

Therefore, it is submitted that the disclosure of Olsson et al. is completely silent regarding the above claimed feature of *"a plurality of information dots (3) having various information recognized are disposed by setting said key dot (2) as a representative point, wherein the information dot (3) is disposed at an end point of a vector, wherein a start point of the vector is set at a center surrounded by the lattice dots (4) of four points and wherein the plurality of information dots (3) are arranged in accordance with a predetermined rule by a dot code generation algorithm to thereby generate a dot pattern (1)."*

In addition, it is submitted that Olsson et al. is completely different from the presently claimed invention.

As clearly described, Olsson et al. discloses a coding pattern which **solely consists of marks 18** which have a value defined by its displacement (see column 5, lines 56-60 and column 6, lines 20-22).

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On the contrary, in the present claimed invention, the dot pattern includes three kinds of dots, the lattice dots, the key dot and the information dots, each of which has a different function.

Therefore, it is submitted that the fundamental structure of the dot pattern is different between Olsson et al. and the present claimed invention.

In view of the above, it is submitted that Olsson et al. does not disclose or fairly suggest the claimed feature of *“a plurality of information dots (3) having various information recognized are disposed by setting said key dot (2) as a representative point, wherein the information dot (3) is disposed at an end point of a vector, wherein a start point of the vector is set at a center surrounded by the lattice dots (4) of four points and wherein the plurality of information dots (3) are arranged in accordance with a predetermined rule by a dot code generation algorithm to thereby generate a dot pattern (1),”* as now called for in amended claim 1.

Accordingly claim 1 distinguishes over Olsson et al.

Also, withdrawal of the Examiner's reliance on the primary reference of Olsson et al. is respectfully requested since Olsson et al. is completely silent and different from the present claimed invention.

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Claims 2-16 are directly or indirectly dependent from claim 1 and recite additional features set forth therein. Accordingly claims 2-16 also distinguish over Olsson et al. at least the reasons set forth above.

New claim 16

Claim 16 recites “*the information dot (3) is disposed within the lattice dots (4) of four points.*”

The subject matter of claim 16 is supported by Fig. 1 and the specification (page 13, lines 3-8).

As shown in Fig. 3b of Olsson et al., there is no dot within the lattice dots of four points. Therefore, Olsson et al. is silent regarding “*the information dot (3) is disposed within the lattice dots (4) of four points,*” as called for in claim 16.

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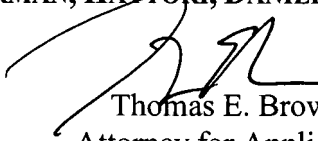
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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